



Peninsula Youth Orchestra

Posting Date: July 2023

Conductor/Music Director Job Description

Mission: The Peninsula Youth Orchestra reflects and enhances the cultural diversity of its community by bringing together student musicians to rehearse and perform symphonic music in an educational setting. PYO strives for high musical standards within a supportive environment that encourages enthusiasm, knowledge, and love of music. PYO enriches the lives of its students as they progress through a challenging course of repertoire which prepares them with the skills needed to enjoy and pursue music the rest of their lives, either as professional or amateur players.

Organization: The Peninsula Youth Orchestra (based in San Mateo County, California) is in its 28th season serving young musicians from elementary grades through high school on the San Francisco Peninsula. Players come from San Francisco to San Jose and some from the East Bay. The organization includes the senior orchestra (PYO), three preparatory orchestras, two flute ensembles, and several string and chamber ensembles, plus summer music camps. PYO performs three concerts per season (September through May) and has historically toured internationally every two years.

PYO rehearses and performs at Carlmont High School and Performing Arts Center in Belmont, California, with weekly rehearsals on Sundays. PYO has performed on highly successful concert tours throughout Europe, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, including venues such as Dvorak Hall (Prague), the Sydney Opera House, the Franz Liszt Academy (Budapest), and the Palau de la Musica (Barcelona). PYO has a full staff of section coaches and a well-organized support staff, and also currently has an Assistant Conductor. The PYO Board of Directors is the governing body.

Website: <https://peninsulayouthorchestra.org>

Position:

PYO is looking for its second inspiring and visionary Music Director to serve in this role since the inception of the organization, following the retirement of its beloved founding Conductor. The **PYO Conductor/Music Director** leads the senior orchestra (PYO) and provides artistic leadership to the full organization, including representing the organization to the community.

Start Date: The incoming Conductor/Music Director will begin July 2024 (date TBD)

Salary: \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year.



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Duties and Responsibilities: The Conductor/Music Director is the orchestra's primary conductor and exercises authority in all artistic matters, including repertoire selection, auditions, rehearsals, seating and part assignment, competitions, tours and selection of guest artists. The Conductor/Music Director will work in close collaboration with the President/General Manager, the Board Chair and other members of the Board of Directors, and will serve as the orchestra's artistic liaison with community groups. *(See job description below.)* The successful candidate for this position will be an inspiring and visionary musical leader; will possess extensive training and experience as a conductor and demonstrate great enthusiasm for music education; will be capable of highly collegial working relationships within the organization and the community; will demonstrate a commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity, and access; and will be able to reside in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

How to Apply:

Application: Fill out the form and upload complete application materials to:

<https://form.jotform.com/231675543678165>

The following documents are required:

1. Cover letter, including a detailed description of your interest in this position and ability to assume the leadership of PYO, information about your training and experience, and any links to videos or audio recordings of your work as a conductor that you would like the Search Committee to assess (maximum of three).
2. Résumé and/or CV
3. Names and contact information for three potential references.

Deadline to Apply: September 1, 2023

Interviews: Interviews (in person preferred) to be scheduled beginning in September 2023; finalist candidates may be asked to audition throughout the 2023-24 season (most likely PYO's March 10, 2024 & May 19, 2024 concerts).

Auditions: 2-3 finalist candidates will be chosen to rehearse and conduct one major work.

Questions? Email jobs@peninsulayouthorchestra.org.



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PYO Conductor/Music Director Job Description

JOB TITLE: CONDUCTOR/MUSIC DIRECTOR

REPORTS TO: PYO President

JOB SUMMARY:

The Conductor/Music Director is responsible for the artistic operation and development of the orchestra program. As such, the Conductor/Music Director is the orchestra's primary conductor and exercises authority in all artistic matters, including repertoire selection, auditions, rehearsals, seating and part assignment, competitions, tours and selection of guest artists. The Conductor/Music Director will work in close collaboration with the President/General Manager, the Board Chair and other members of the Board of Directors, and will serve as the orchestra's artistic liaison with community groups.

JOB DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES:

Musical Responsibilities

- Serve as director and conductor of PYO's top orchestra, known as The Peninsula Youth Orchestra.
- Collaborate with the President/General Manager in planning the season, including but not limited to: regular concerts, special concerts, rehearsals, chamber ensemble programs, tours and retreats.
- Collaborate with the President/General Manager and Board of Directors in developing long-range artistic plans for the PYO Program.
- Select works to be performed and determine the number and type of rehearsals and sectionals required.
- Coordinate with the President/General Manager the purchase or rental of music, ensure (with help from appropriate coaches) that all bowings and markings are clear and consistent.
- Stay abreast of repertoire appropriate for youth instrumentalists; determine levels of difficulty for different groups; ensure the effective use of all orchestra players.
- Oversee student auditions and competitions; establish musical criteria for both. In consultation with other staff members, select and approve players; select principal players, determine seating within each section.

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- Select coaches, judges and guest artists as needed.
- Determine the stage setup that presents the orchestra at its best, both acoustically and visually; collaborate with the President/General Manager in arranging for any special musical needs.
- Conduct all assigned rehearsals and concerts of the Peninsula Youth Orchestra, including performing tours, and arrange for guest conductors as needed.
- Collaborate with President/General Manager regarding appropriate tour schedules, sites, itineraries and repertoire selection.
- Support other facets of the PYO program, including chamber music and preparatory orchestras, through personal encouragement of students and staff and occasional attendance at performances.
- Exercise leadership in developing the total artistic quality of the orchestra and pursuing the stated mission of PYO.

Non-Musical Responsibilities

- Serve as an artistic liaison with schools and community educators; develop a collaborative working relationship.
- Play a visible and active role in the community; help promote the overall public image of PYO in the community and beyond.
- Assist in the general promotion of PYO by being available for public appearances, benefit programs, fund drives, etc.
- Serve as PYO spokesman and advocate to press contacts whenever possible, both informally and during formal interviews.
- Strengthen the volunteer culture of PYO by working as needed with Board Members, parents, and other volunteers on special projects designed to help the orchestra.
- Attend Board meetings as needed and provide reports on artistic activities.